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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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50
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 IO-10 ACDA-10

AID-05 /074 W
---------- 038139
R 081402Z APR 75
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 884
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA

UNCLAS BELFAST 119

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)
SUBJECT: SPORADIC VIOLENCE CONTINUES BELFAST AS PROVISIONAL IRA MODIFIES CEASEFIRE POSITION.

REF: BELFAST 117

1. ANOTHER YOUNG ROMAN CATHOLIC MALE SHOT AND KILLED BELFAST APRIL 7, THERE ONE SIZEABLE CAR BOMB EXPLOSION AT CATHOLIC DRINKING CLUB AND FIVE SEPARATE HARMLESS SHOOTING INCIDENTS. CIRCUMSTANCES KILLING UNCLEAR EXCEPT THAT VICTIM WAS SPECIAL TARGET AND KNOWN BY NAME TO ATTACKERS. INCIDENTS CONFINED BELFAST AREA AND MOST SEEM CONNECTED TO VARIOUS AND CURRENT INTRASECTARIAN FEUDS.

2. SECURITY FORCES INCREASING PRESENCE IN VIOLENCE-PRONE AREAS ESPECIALLY IN ACCESS ROUTES BETWEEN CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT TERRITORIES AND IN 'INTERFACE' AREAS OF MIXED POPULATION. DETECTIVE SQUADS BELFAST REINFORMCED FROM ELSEWHERE IN PROVINCE AND SOME ARMY UNITS REDEPLOYED TO INCREASE BELFAST COVERAGE. ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY RELEASED FIGURES APRIL 7 CITING ARRESTS 45 TRAVELLING GUNMEN SINCE JAN 1 IN ADDITION TO 56 CAUGHT BETWEEN
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SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 1974. IN PAST WEEK 26 PEOPLE ARRESTED

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FOR TERRORIST-TYPE OFFENSES AND 23 WEAPONS WITH 1600 ROUNDS AMMUNITION SEIZED.

3. NEWS FROM DUBLIN APRIL 8 THAT PROVISIONAL ARMY COUNCIL HAD DECIDED MAINTAIN CEASEFIRE GREETED WITH RELIEF IN ULSTER. THERE SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHAT ACTUALLY MEANT BY COUNCIL MODIFICATION CEASEFIRE CONDITIONS WHICH NOW AUTHORIZE PROVISIONAL UNITS TAKE DEFENSIVE AND PRESUMABLY RETALIATORY ACTION 'RELATED TO THE LEVEL OF VIOLENT AND HOSTILE ACTIVITY BY CROWN AND SECTARIAN FORCES'. GOVERNMENT AND PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN INCIDENT CENTERS CONTINUE TO FUNCTION BUT IT IS NOT RPT NOT CLEAR WHETHER THERE ANY CLEARANCE PROCESS REQUIRED BEFORE INDIVIDUAL IRA UNITS CAN TAKE 'DEFENSIVE' ACTION.

4. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) MP GERRY FITT ATTACKED PROVISIONALS IN STRONG STATEMENT FOR 'EXTREME COWARDICE' AND INCONSISTENCY. THE COWARDICE RELATED TO THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN DECISION NOT RPT NOT CONTEST CONVENTION ELECTIONS AND THE INCONSISTENCY IS THAT CATHOLIC PEOPLE THREATENED BY SECTARIAN KILLERS NEEDED PROTECTION ARMY AND THAT PROVISIONALS COULD NOT RPT NOT DENY THIS PROTECTION BY EXCLUDING ARMY FROM CATHOLIC AREAS.

5. SDLP GENERALLY SHOWING INCREASING CONCERN ABOUT DECISIONS REPUBLICAN GROUPS ABSTAIN OR BOYCOTT ELECTIONS. RATHER THAN BELIEVING SDLP WILL BENEFIT FROM LACK COMPETITION FOR CATHOLIC VOTES, SDLP CANDIDATES ARE WORRIED THAT VOTER APATHY AND CAMPAIGN OF VOTER INTIMIDATION BY PROVISIONALS WILL REDUCE SUPPORT FOR SDLP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 08 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750473/aaaacooc.tel
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